

Construction Dewatering

How to get permission to discharge to the King County sewer system

Construction dewatering is the act of pumping groundwater or stormwater away from an active construction site.

King County regulates the disposal of such wastewater into the King County sewer system.

This water usually may be pumped into the sewer if you first get a discharge approval from the King County Industrial Waste Program and get permission from your local sewer agency.

A form to request King County approval is on page 3. Please fill out the form as completely as possible because missing information may delay your approval.



The type of approval depends on many factors. The Industrial Waste Program will decide whether you need just a letter of approval, a discharge authorization, or a

permit (the most complex approval).

All approvals must comply with a King County public rule, Discharge of Construction Dewatering to the Sanitary Sewer. Copies are available at <http://www.metrokc.gov/reclec/archives/policies/put814pr/htm> or by calling Industrial Waste at 206-263-3000.

In a discharge approval, King County may include:

- Requirement to self-monitor for specified substances;
- Limit for FOG (fats, oils, and grease);
- Limits for benzene (0.13 ppm), toluene (1.5 ppm), and ethylbenzene (1.4 ppm)

- Sedimentation-control methods;
- Limit for solids capable of settling (less than 7 milliliters per liter).

Discharge of materials such as ashes, sand, grass, and gravel is prohibited.

Permission from your local sewer agency

In addition to King County approval, you must get permission to discharge to the sewer from your local sewer agency. The local agency may issue street-use permits and approve the point of discharge to the sewer.

If you do not know the name of your local sewer agency, please phone Industrial Waste for this information at 206-263-3000.

King County Industrial Waste will send a copy of your King County approval to your local agency so the agency can bill you.

Discharges to the sewer during the wet season (November through April)

The construction-dewatering rule limits discharges during the wet season to 25,000 gallons per day or less.

An option for disposing of larger volumes during the wet season is to get authorization to discharge to surface water from the Washington State Department of Ecology or local surface water permit jurisdiction. For state permit information, see the state's Web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/permit.html> or

call the Permit Assistance Center at 360-407-7037 or 800-917-0043.

Sometimes an applicant cannot obtain authorization for surface water discharge because of site and/or regulatory restrictions. Under these circumstances, the applicant must provide King County Industrial Waste with documentation showing that it cannot obtain this authorization. King County will then process the request.

If you have a Washington State or local jurisdiction permit to discharge to surface waters, King County Industrial Waste may issue authorization to discharge to the sanitary sewer for emergency relief only.

Failure to apply for a surface water discharge authorization in a timely way is not an acceptable reason for Industrial Waste to grant a King County discharge approval to the sewer.

Sites with suspected contaminated groundwater



For a potentially contaminated site, King County will require an applicant to demonstrate that the discharge meets King County discharge limits. For a copy of the

limits, see the Industrial Waste Web site at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/indwaste> and the King County public rule setting limits at <http://www.metrokc.gov/recelec/archives/policies/put813pr.htm>. Or telephone Industrial Waste at 206-263-3000.

The applicant must have alternative disposal plans if the discharge does not meet King County limits--either treat unacceptable batches or have the water hauled offsite to be disposed of by a licensed treatment, storage, disposal, or recycling facility.

Sites in an area with a Combined Sewer Overflow

If the discharge is in an area with a King County Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), King County may put restrictions on discharge during heavy rainstorms, depending on such factors as the basin, volume, or site.

The local sewer agency may also restrict the flow in areas with restricted sewer lines or locally controlled CSOs.

For more information, contact:

King County Industrial Waste Program

130 Nickerson Street, Suite 200
Seattle, Washington 98109-1658
206-263-3000
206-263-3001 FAX

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/indwaste/>
(The web page called Construction Sites will contain this document.)

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